THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is estimated that about 20,000 corneas are being collected every year in the country. Out of these about 60% corneas are used for restoring sight of corneal blind and remaining are being used for therapeutic, research and laboratory purposes. To increase the rate of utilization of available corneas, prompt removal and transplantation of donated eyes and modern methods of preservation (like M.K. medium) are advocated.

Amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act

1537. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce some amendments in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to make it stronger to deal with the spurious drugs manufacturers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the gravity of the menace of spurious drugs, Govt, of India has set up an Expert Committee on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR and Secretary to Govt, of India, to look into the various issues related to Drugs Control Administration including the matter of effectively tackling the problem of spurious drugs and making suitable recommendations including changes in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Central Council of Indian Medicine

1538. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Council of Indian Medicine

has been granted permission for starting new colleges- of ISM, conducting courses of ISM and fixing the number of seats/students;

(b) if so, the details of the provisions of the IMC Act, 1970 under which CCIM is empowered to do so;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Council is charging Rs. one lakh from the institutions of ISM every year; and

(d) if so, the provisions of the IMC Act, 1970 under which CCIM has right to do so, otherwise why this unhealthy practice has not been checked?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. However, such permission will now be given by the Central Government.

(b) Since the CCIM has to ensure the compliance of standards of education laid down and has to recommend recognition of medical qualifications, the institutions had been approaching them for permission. There was, however, no specific legal provision before 28.01.2003 for seeking permission.

(c) CCIM is charging Rs. one lakh only w.e.f. 2002-03 from new institutions.

(d) The CCIM has to carry out periodical inspection of the institutions to ensure compliance of standards. CCIM charges fee to meet expenditure on inspection.

Changing of infants

1539. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of several recent incidents of changing of infants from the hospitals;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any stringent action to stop recurrence of such incidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof? -fOriginal notice

of the question was received in Hindi.